

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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EB-03 ACDA-05 /048 W

----- 075717

O R 271439Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1365

AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 3764

LIMDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJ: SAG ASSISTANCE TO THE YAR MILITARY

REF : STATE 122278; JIDDA 3232

1. WE SUGGEST IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE THAT WE NOT REPEAT NOT GIVE PRESIDENT HAMDI A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM AMBAS- SADOR AKINS TO MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN. THIS WILL BE A CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE USG TO SULTAN AND HE WOULD NOT APPRECIATE A COPY BEING GIVEN TO ANYONE ELSE. HE MIGHT WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION FEEL THAT WE ARE GANGING UP WITH THE YARG TO BOX HIM INTO A POSITION. GIVEN THE GEN- ERAL SAUDI ATTITUDE OF "BIG BROTHER" TO THE YAR AND SULTAN'S OWN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT, HE MIGHT VERY WELL BALK AT DOING ANYTHING RIGHT AWAY AND BECOME SKITTISH OF COOPERATION WITH US ON YAR MODERNIZATION.

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2. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO LET THE YARG KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT WE AND THE SAUDIS ARE ACTIVELY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE MODERNIZATION OF THEIR ARMED FORCES; THIS KIND OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT MODERATE YEMENI GOVERNMENT IS, AFTER ALL, WHAT WE CONSTRUE TO BE A MAIN PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE.

3. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATE ACTION IN REGARD TO THE YARG--AN ADMITTEDLY LESS SATISFACTORY APPROACH FROM THE EMBASSY SANAA'S POINT OF VIEW:

A. A DAY OR TWO AFTER WE HAVE DELIVERED THE LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN, AMBASSADOR SCOTES INFORMS PRESIDENT HAMDI THAT WE HAVE APPROACHED THE SAG TO URGE RAPID MOVEMENT ON AID TO THE YAR ARMED FORCES.

B. WHEN AMBASSADOR AKINS SEES SULTAN (WHICH SHOULD BE ONLY A DAY OR SO AFTER THAT) HE TELLS SULTAN THAT WE WANT TO TELL THE YARG WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO FOR THEM IN THE SHORT TERM WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE SAG. HE WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO SULTAN THAT THE SA INVITE A YEMENI MILITARY DELEGATION TO RIYADH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS OUR PROPOSALS.

C. DEPENDING UPON SULTAN'S REACTION (AND IF IT IS NOT OPENLY NEGATIVE WE WILL INTERPRET IT AS BEING POSITIVE) AMBASSADOR SCOTES THEN BRIEFS HAMDI ON OUR GENERAL APPROACH TO THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND LEAVES WITH HIM LISTS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE OVER VARYING TIME PERIODS. AGAIN DEPENDING UPON SULTAN'S REACTION, AMBASSADOR SCOTES CAN ALSO SAY THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE SAG THE POSSIBILITY OF A YAR MILITARY DELEGATION'S GOING TO RIYADH AND SUGGEST THAT HE TAKE THIS UP WITH THE SAG DIRECTLY.

4. HOPEFULLY AFTER WE HAVE TAKEN THESE STEPS WE WILL BE IN AN OPEN THREE-WAY DIALOGUE ON THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND IT WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY TO KEEP HAMDI SO MUCH IN THE DARK. AT THE PRESENT TIME IT MIGHT BE BEST NOT TO TELL HAMDI WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO UNLESS WE HAVE AT LEAST SOME IDEA THAT THE SAG WILL BE INTERESTED IN FINANCING IT.

AKINS

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